

within Medicare, thereby improving the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries and achieving savings for the program overall.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 1544, the "Patient Empowerment Act of 1999." The "Patient Empowerment Act" was the first step toward eliminating the wide variation in treatment patterns across the U.S., as identified by Dr. John Wennberg in the Dartmouth Atlas. The "Clinical Practice Patterns Act" builds on this theme by developing evidence-based clinical guidelines to assist providers in treating various illness.

Mr. Speaker, there are literally millions of doctors, nurses, and health administrators working in thousands of different hospitals, all trained at different schools in different communities, who provide care to the 39 million elderly, disabled, and ESRD patients covered by Medicare. With all of these elements interacting together, it's no wonder that we have such wide variation in treatment patterns across the United States.

Medicare is a combination of both art and science. For most treatments, there are no empirical data on clinical effectiveness that suggest one method is better than another. In these cases, providers use their "best guess" to make treatment decisions—relying on their individual knowledge, preferences, and the resources available to them. This "art" of medicine exacerbates the variation in treatment patterns, and Medicare expenditures, across the U.S.

Yet, as Wennberg notes, there is virtually no difference in health outcomes between low and high spending areas. If less expensive treatments are available, why aren't we prescribing them more readily? By collecting and distributing data on clinical effectiveness, and encouraging providers to use treatment guidelines, we may be able to minimize practice variation. We simultaneously may be able to achieve substantial savings for Medicare.

Following is a portion of an interview from the May/June 1999 issue of Health Affairs by Princeton professor Uwe Reinhardt with HHS Secretary Donna Shalala discussing how Medicare's financial problems would be greatly reduced if the variation in clinical practices were minimized:

REINHARDT. "Count on me to be a real thorn in the side of the status quo, then, because I believe that if everyone in America could consume medical care while spending at rates similar to those of Minnesota, Oregon, and Wisconsin, providing health care to the aging baby-boom generation would be a piece of cake, wouldn't it?"

SHALALA. "Absolutely, and the doctors would feel as though the system were fairer. But once the infrastructure is built and physicians get comfortable with consuming a certain level of resources, it's very difficult to work your way out unless you buy yourself out, as we have attempted to do with the downsizing of medical residency positions through HCFA's New York demonstration."

Clinical practice guidelines are being used more and more throughout the private sector to improve the quality of health care as well as to increase the efficiency of the health industry. This practice does not in any way diminish the art of medicine, it only improves the science behind treatment decisions.

Medicare is a natural candidate for clinical practice guidelines. With an outstanding database of information on beneficiaries across the country, and the resources of the NIH and

AHCPR at hand, Medicare could effectively implement a program to improve clinical effectiveness and achieve savings through efficiency.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
WILLIAM S. HEFRON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. GILLMOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that William S. Hefron, of Amherst, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Mr. Speaker, Bill as accepted his offer of appointment and will be attending West Point this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2003. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

While attending Lorain Catholic High School, Bill has attained a grade point average of 4.062 on a 4.3 scale, which places him third in his class of sixty-six students. Bill's scholastic honors include the Lorain Catholic Honor Roll and National Honor Society. Bill is also taking several AP classes to further his outstanding academic achievements.

Outside of the classroom, Bill has distinguished himself as an outstanding student-athlete. On the fields of competition, Bill is a Varsity letter winner in cross country, track, football, and basketball. During his Junior season, Bill was captain of the cross country team, Most Valuable Runner, and a school record holder. In track, Bill won the 800 meters at the District Track & Field Meet, and placed fifth in Regional competition. And currently, Bill is the Secretary of the Senior Class.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to William S. Hefron. Our service academies offer the finest education and military training available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Bill will do very well during his career at West Point, and I wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE KEITH  
CLARK

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I would like to take this moment to honor the remarkable life and exceptional achievements of a great Coloradan and American, Keith Clark. In doing so, I wish to pay tribute to Keith for all of his many years of service and sacrifice on behalf of this nation. At the same time, I would also like to

offer my deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Keith as they grieve at his passing. Like those who knew him well, the entire Grand Junction community will miss both Keith and his tireless service on their behalf.

For 29 years in Grand Junction, Colorado's School District 51, Keith was a pillar of education who served with great distinction, both as a teacher and as an advocate for improving our schools. Keith was, for nearly three decades, a powerful voice of leadership and vision for education in the Grand Valley. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that his leadership in education will continue to benefit students in our school system for many years to come. I know that this is a legacy that Mr. Clark would take great pride in.

In addition to his service as an educator, Keith also served his country with great valor as a B-52 pilot during World War II. Mr. Clark flew and fought bravely over the skies of North Africa and Italy in defense of the nation he loved deeply.

At one might surmise from his sustained service and selfless sacrifice, Keith was also a fierce patriot and proud American. He believed deeply in our constitutional form of government and in the bedrock principles—like freedom, liberty, and individual self-determination—upon which this great republic stands.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Mr. Keith Clark for his decades of service, both in defense of our country as an airman and in defense of our future as an educator. He was truly a great American.

At the same time, I would also like to offer my heart-felt condolences to Keith's family: his wife of 52 years Anita, his children Katie and Cal, and his three granddaughters Amber, Lily and Hillary. I hope that these family members, like everyone who has had the good-fortune of knowing Keith, will take solace in the undisputable fact that they are a better person for having known him.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF JOAN  
KELLY

**HON. JAMES E. ROGAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, none of us here today would have found success without the help and guidance of a teacher. As students, we were all influenced by those who commit their lives to the service of others. Too often, this service goes unnoticed. Today, I would like to salute the service of a teacher who has dedicated over a decade of her career to the students in my district.

Joan Kelly has taught in La Crescenta, California for 11 years. However, her work as a teacher began long before her move to my district. Throughout her life, Joan has committed herself to serving the needs of students and the needs of the community.

Joan is a native of Brooklyn, New York. A graduate of Fordham University, she taught elementary school and worked extensively in the New York area. Her work with students and parents led her to develop a counseling program in Yonkers, New York. This program is a shining example of her relentless pursuit of innovative and creative ways to reach students.

Joan joined the faculty at Rosemont Middle School in the Spring of 1987. Her efforts as a math, history, and English teacher and school administrator contributed to Rosemont being recognized as a U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a California Distinguished School.

In her years of service at Rosemont Middle School, Joan has proven herself to be a leader. She is often called on by colleagues to direct teacher in-service programs, passing on to her peers a lifetime of knowledge about education. Further, she has instilled in teachers the skills to help students be the best they can be. In 1993, she was awarded the prestigious Masonic Award for her service.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of our nation tomorrow depends on the quality of the education our youth receive today. And one need look no further than the roster of Joan's former students to see the leaders of tomorrow. For her service to our nation, and for her commitment to public education, I ask my colleagues here today to join me in recognizing Joan Kelly.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes last night, rollcall Numbers 167, 168 and 169. These votes were missed due to a canceled airline flight. On these votes, I would have voted "aye".

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. AUGUSTO ORTIZ AND MARTHA ORTIZ

##### HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife Martha, who have for half a century provided medical and clinical services to the Spanish-speaking population of Arizona. I wish to recognize their selflessness and commitment to the health and welfare of their fellow Americans.

During the past year in particular, we have witnessed many discussions about the role that Puerto Rican-Americans play in the mainstream United States. Some have questioned our right to equality as Americans because of our language and our culture, but I want to assure you that the patriotic and law abiding citizens of Puerto Rico have distinguished themselves in all facets of life in the United States, be it in defense of our nation, as community leaders, as athletes, professionals, scientists or as performing artists, making numerous contributions to our great nation. Our language and culture have enhanced and enriched our national culture, contributing to the service and understanding of our fellow citizens throughout the United States.

The merging of our cultures is especially evident in the life of Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz. Their lifelong commitment to Arizona is enhanced by the fact that Dr. Ortiz is a Puerto Rican-American

who together with his wife have dedicated their lives to the service of their fellow human beings. Thousands of Arizonans feel deep gratitude for Ortiz' commitment to their health and lives.

How is it that this "Jibaro Puertorriqueño" came to lead his life in the desert? While a boy in Puerto Rico, Dr. Ortiz dreamt of helping others. His parents encouraged his love of learning and dedication to the public service. After graduating from medical school at the University of Illinois in 1945, he joined the military and served as a physician at several posts throughout the country. In the early 1950's, while stationed at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix, Arizona, Dr. Ortiz volunteered to assist Dr. Carlos Graeth to provide medical services to the 80,000 Hispanics in Maricopa County. They were the only two Spanish speaking doctors in the County.

Dr. Ortiz became a champion for the rights of those he served. His involvement in improving human needs and access to medical care, better education, housing and jobs led him to become politically active and an ally for people who lacked a voice, particularly farm workers. He worked to improve field sanitation conditions and was instrumental in enacting state laws to regulate the use of pesticides.

Martha Ortiz was the organizational brains of this effort. She served as the full time administrator, personnel director and business manager of the office mostly as a volunteer, because she refused to accept payment for her services. She ably handled the many "pay what you can" patient alternatives that enabled the medical practice to continue to make health services available and affordable to low income and indigent residents of Arizona.

Since 1972, Dr. Ortiz has headed the University of Arizona Rural Health Office and has successfully directed more efficient health services including prevention-focused health campaigns, mobile clinics and community health boards. He is a living model to aspiring doctors and others in the health professions.

During their 50 year commitment to their fellow man and woman, Dr. and Mrs. Ortiz have been awarded many rightfully deserved honors and recognitions at the community, state and national levels.

As a fellow Puerto Rican-American, as a fellow Hispanic and as a fellow American, I am pleased and proud to recognize the achievements of this couple who have made a difference in the lives of thousands. Dr. Ortiz deserves our deepest gratitude and the nation's recognition. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join with me in saluting and honoring, Dr. Augusto Ortiz and his wife Martha Ortiz.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT M. "BOB" ROSE

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Robert M. "Bob" Rose was honored with the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities during the 1999 academic convocation at Missouri Valley College on Sunday, May 16, 1999.

Mr. Rose is a graduate of Marshall High School in Marshall, Missouri. He also earned

a degree from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., a Master of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts degree in International Affairs from The George Washington University and is a graduate of both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

In 1949, Mr. Rose was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and he remained a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army until 1971. His overseas service included Germany from 1950 to 1953, Korea from 1960 to 1961, another tour in Germany from 1965 to 1967 and Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. His service time in the United States was divided among Fort Knox, Ky., Fort Meade, Md., Washington, D.C., and various service schools.

Key positions held by Rose while in the U.S. Army included instructor and assistant professor of English at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point from 1956 to 1959, commander of combat units from platoon to division support command in Vietnam and staff officer from battalion to Department of Army headquarters (Pentagon). Rose was promoted to colonel in 1968 and he retired from military service on February 1, 1971.

As a civilian, Rose was the managing partner of Rose and Buckner Store on the east side of the Marshall square. Bob was the third generation of the Rose family in this position. The store closed upon his retirement. Other local business and civic offices held by Rose include being past president and board member of the Marshall Rotary Club, serving on the board of directors of Wood and Huston Bank in Marshall, serving on the board of directors of Wood and Huston Bancorporation Inc. in Marshall and acting as past chairman of the board for Corwin Corporation in Kansas City.

Rose was also a board trustee of Ridge Park Cemetery Association in Marshall, a board member of the Missouri River Chapter of the American Red Cross, executive board member of the Great Rivers Council of Boy Scouts of America, past chairman of the Missouri Valley College Board of Trustees and a member of various military, veteran and civic organizations.

Rose in an active member of First United Methodist Church in Marshall. He and his wife Betty are the parents of one son.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in congratulating Robert M. "Bob" Rose for his honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities, and for his lifelong service to his community and to his country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 1999*

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the vote on final passage of H.R. 1915, Jennifer's Law or Grants to the States to Improve the Reporting of Unidentified and Missing Persons. If I had been present I would have voted "aye".